

5 April 2006
Wednesday

READINGS

Psalm 130; Exodus 7:8-24; II Corinthians 2:14-3:6; Mark 10:1-16

DEVOTION

Family values. It's a term that we hear so often these days, and it's a term that causes a lot of controversy among people these days. Single parents, divorced and remarried folks, and latchkey kids have made these issues very tricky ones to discuss in our day and age. We set up standards that separate us from one another on these kinds of issues. But there is a higher standard to consider than our own judgment.

Jesus was concerned with family values. In the Mark passage Jesus discusses marriage, divorce and children. He ends his thoughts on the subject by taking the little children in his arms and holding them close, rebuking his disciples for trying to keep them away. For Jesus, caring for the children and making a secure and safe place for them within his circle, within his influence, was very important. So important that he told his followers that anyone who did not approach God and His kingdom like a child would not enter in.

Right now we are separated from our families, and the children in our lives- whether they be our own children or nieces and nephews, children of our friends, or children in our churches and neighborhoods- are far away from us. But we can use this time to make ourselves better stewards of the children God brings into our lives. Let's use our time productively to identify the ways in which we have set up roadblocks or judged others as they go about trying to maintain their families. Let us commit ourselves to building a safe place for the children of all families, that they may grow to know well the kingdom that God has made for the whole human family that he calls his own. Thanks be to God!

Prayer: Loving God, make us ever mindful of the blessings of family that you bestow on us. Give us new eyes to see you and your kingdom as a child might, that we may be ever filled with the wonder of it all. Bless us now this day for your name's sake. Amen.

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